

REMARKS

Claims 19-33 were previously pending in the application, claims 22-25 and 30-33 having been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 19-21 and 26-29 are currently amended and new claims 37-40 have been added.

The claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 19-20 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the article of Bugnacki et al. (Bugnacki). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,685,038 (Smith) in view of Bugnacki. Claims 26-28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Published Patent Application No. 2001/0025392 (Youn) in view of Bugnacki and Smith.

Independent Claim 19 recites, among other things, "said arrangement including at least one sensor and a lever device, said at least one sensor coupled to an element of said linen treatment device by said lever device." As disclosed in the Specification, a sensor 22 can be mounted to a rail 23 of a lever 27, which is connected to a soapy water container 15. *See 2004/0168480, ¶0029.*

Bugnacki discloses a micromachined thermal accelerometer. The accelerometer includes a heat source which produces a temperature signature. The temperature signature changes as the accelerometer is moved. Sensors detect the change, and the accelerometer provides an output indicative of the change. Bugnacki discloses that the accelerometer can be used in a washing machine to detect vibration and tilt. *Bugnacki.*

Bugnacki does not disclose how to mount the accelerometer in a washing machine. Specifically, Bugnacki does not disclose "said arrangement including at least one sensor and a lever device, said at least one sensor coupled to an element of said linen treatment device by said lever device," as required by amended claim 19.

In addition, Smith would not cure the deficiencies of Bugnacki. Smith teaches an out-of-balance control 32 (i.e., a sensor) for a washing machine 10. The control 32 is mounted directly to a motor and transmission unit 24 of the washing machine 10. *Smith*, col. 3, line 56 to col. 4, line 2.

Youn also would not cure the deficiencies of Bugnacki. Youn teaches washing machines 100 including a fault sensor 185 and a load sensor 190. *Youn*, paragraphs 0035-0036. Youn does not teach how these sensors are mounted on the washing machines.

Therefore, Bugnacki, Smith, and Youn, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest “said arrangement including at least one sensor and a lever device, said at least one sensor coupled to an element of said linen treatment device by said lever device,” as required by amended claim 19.

Accordingly, independent claim 19 is allowable. Claims 20-21, 26-28, and 37-40 depend from claim 19 and are allowable for the same reasons, and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 29 specifies “a lever device, said at least one sensor coupled to a container of said household device by said lever device.”

As set forth above with respect to claim 19, neither Bugnacki, Smith, or Youn, alone or in combination, teach or suggest “a lever device, said at least one sensor coupled to a container of said household device by said lever device,” as required by claim 29. Accordingly, claim 29 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 19-21, 26-29, and 37-40 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig J. Loest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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October 25, 2007

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